

FY15 LAND and PARC How-to Workshop

Division of Conservation
Services

DCS Grant Programs

- **Local Acquisitions for Natural Diversity (LAND)** – acquire conservation land
- **Parkland Acquisitions and Renovations for Communities (PARC)** – acquire recreation land and/or develop public outdoor recreation facilities



Community Path, Somerville



CSA Farm, Easthampton

DCS Grant Programs

- Grant announcement is in anticipation of funding
- **Priorities for the FY15 Grant Round:**
 - ▶ **Conservation Projects (LAND):**
 - Biodiversity protection (BioMap 2)
 - Small or fast-growing communities
 - Outdoor passive recreation
 - ▶ **Recreation Projects (PARC):**
 - New park development, especially on parkland recovered from brownfield site clean-up
 - Projects in Environmental Justice neighborhoods
 - Projects that provide for park equity

LAND and PARC Grant Information

- **Grant deadline June 18, 2014 at 3:00 pm**
- Applicants must have *current* Open Space and Recreation Plan (OSRP) on file with DCS by grant deadline
- Applicants with outstanding conversion issues are ineligible
- **Maximum grant award of \$400,000**
- Reimbursement rate between 52% and 70%

LAND and PARC Grant Information

- Download an application package – fillable pdf available at www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants
- Do not purchase land without signed contract!
- Do not begin construction without signed contract!



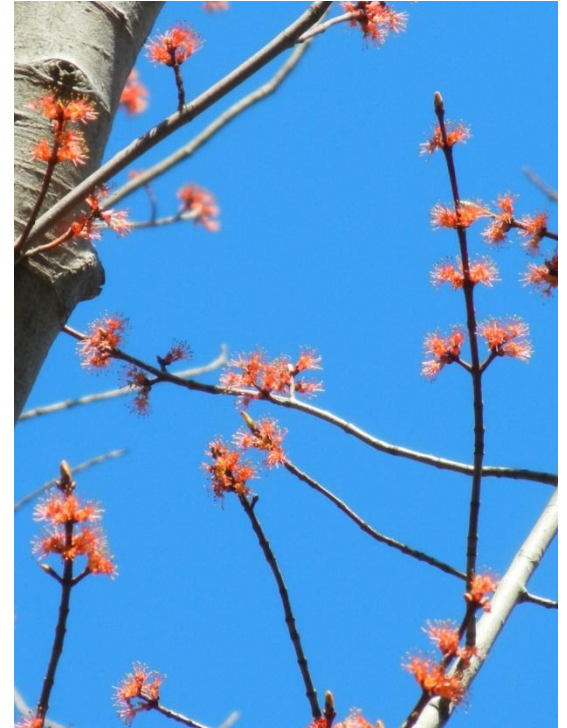
Marshall Roy Park, Springfield

Eligible Project Costs

- **For LAND & PARC acquisition projects:**
 - ▶ Property purchase
 - ▶ Title research & certification
 - ▶ Recording fees
 - ▶ Survey
- **For PARC renovation/development projects:**
 - ▶ Engineering
 - ▶ Design
 - ▶ Construction
 - ▶ Construction supervision (during year 2)
- **Municipality must approve 100% of costs** (shown in municipal vote)
- May use some types of federal monies, such as CDBG, as local portion of total grant costs

Ineligible Project Costs

- Appraisals
- Donations
- In-kind expenses
- Legal fees
- Staff time
- Equipment or goods
- Application preparation costs
- 21E assessment and compliance fees
- Brownfields restoration
- And everything else not listed as eligible!
- **When in doubt, ask us!**



Selection Process for DCS Grants

- All projects are visited by DCS staff, then rated and ranked (rating system is included in each grant's application package)
- Recommendations are approved by EEA
- *Estimated* grant award announcement date is November 2014
- Project completion dates:
FY15 acquisition projects: June 1, 2015*
FY16 acquisition and construction projects: June 1, 2016

Rating System

- Two rating systems – one for LAND, one for PARC
- Each contain demographic information
 - ▶ Federal census data
 - ▶ Environmental Justice
- Do not score yourself – DCS develops the demographic scores with data from the Department of Economic Development



Peabody Street Park, Salem

Municipal Votes

- All projects must have a town meeting/city council vote
- The vote must do three things:
 - ▶ Authorize grant application
 - ▶ Approve appropriation of 100% of the total project cost
 - ▶ Dedicate the land to recreation or conservation purposes
- Use sample vote language in application package
- **Send all draft vote language to Celia or Melissa for approval**
- Vote can occur after application deadline or after grant decisions have been announced
- Successful grants must have vote in by end of the calendar year

CPA Communities, LWCF Recipients

- Property(s) community has acquired with Community Preservation Act (CPA) funds must include the conveyance of a Conservation Restriction to an eligible 3rd party
- LAND and PARC grant recipients must show compliance with this requirement prior to final reimbursement
- Grant recipients that have Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) sites in their community will have to complete an inspection form on all properties prior to final reimbursement

Post-completion Responsibilities

- All sites that receive LAND or PARC funding are protected by Article 97, which means the land must remain as conservation or recreation land in perpetuity
- Site must be open to all – this includes both non-residents and the handicapped
- Fair fee policy
- Sign requirements



Useful Tips

- No binders, folders, plastic sleeves, etc. – use binder clips to fasten applications together
- 1 original and 2 copies – clearly mark the copies
- Double-sided copies, please!
- Clearly mark all attachments – use the application form as an attachment checklist
- Maintain the format of the application form by using the fillable pdf – this isn't the time to use your favorite font
- If your community is re-submitting a previous application, be sure that you submit current attachments
- Focus on the big picture – if one thing is filled in incorrectly, the application will (most likely) still be eligible

PARC Projects

- Purchase parkland
- Develop new public outdoor recreation facilities
- Renovate existing municipal public parks
- Land must be dedicated to public park purposes and under custody of Park or Recreation Commission or Park Department



Wildwood Park, Burlington

PARC Grants

- All cities regardless of size or towns with more than 35,000 residents are eligible for maximum \$400,000 grant award
- Towns with less than 35,000 residents proposing project with access to public transportation or 100 car parking lot are also eligible for maximum \$400,000 grant award
- All other town projects are eligible for maximum \$50,000 grant award (this is referred to as a “small town” grant)
- **NEW FOR 2014** – “small town” grant applications will be competing for separate pool of funding
- Letters of support deadline – postmarked by July 8, 2014

PARC Application Tips

- Complete answers to all questions
- Appraisal(s) are a must for acquisition projects
- Preliminary design (done prior to application deadline) must be firm enough to generate a solid cost estimate
- Make sure to break budget details into design and construction costs (two distinct FYs)
- Remember to include construction administration costs in year 2



Kayem Park, Chelsea

PARC Application Tips

- Write your project description to answer the following:
 - ▶ Is this park in an EJ neighborhood?
 - ▶ Is this park a former brownfields site?
 - ▶ How is this site accessible without a vehicle?
 - ▶ Is this a new park?
 - ▶ Is there water-based recreation offered?
 - ▶ Will this project increase tree cover?
 - ▶ Did my community complete enhanced outreach in EJ neighborhoods?
 - ▶ Do I have a partnership with a non-profit on this project?
 - ▶ Will there be environmental education on site?
 - ▶ How does this project address my OSRP's goals, objectives, or action plan items, as well as the SCORP action items?

LAND Grant

- Land acquisition:
 - ▶ Fee simple
 - ▶ Conservation Restriction
- Conservation Commission control
- For conservation & passive recreation
- Cooperate! Many communities work closely with non-profits



Shrine of Our Lady of LaSalette, Attleboro

LAND Grant

- **Appraisal**
 - ▶ TWO appraisals if the first is >\$750,000
- **Budget**
 - ▶ Itemize anticipated expenses
- **Project narrative**
- **Maps**
 - ▶ Natural resources and landscape context
- **Natural Heritage & Historical Commission review**



Most Competitive Projects

- Ecological resources
 - ▶ Habitat & biodiversity
 - ▶ Water
- Landscape level protection
 - ▶ Links to existing protected open space
 - ▶ Large
 - ▶ Wildlife corridors
- Public recreation
- Open Space & Recreation Plan (OSRP) goals
- Working lands
- Undevelopment (yes!)



Conservation Assistance for Small Communities

Towns with 6,000 or fewer residents

Appraisal: \$3,000

Open Space & Recreation Plan
or other plan: \$15,000

80% reimbursement

Non-competitive, rolling funding

Separate application due
Friday, May 30, 2014



Pelham, Well Away Farm

Must apply to a DCS grant program to receive reimbursement

Reimbursement not contingent upon getting another grant award

Other DCS Grant Programs

- **Conservation Partnership grant**

For: non-profits

Max award: \$85,000

To: acquire land/CRs

Application due: June 20, 2014

- **Drinking Water Supply Protection grant**

For: municipal water departments/non-profit public water suppliers/water districts

To: acquire land/CRs

Max award: \$350,000

Application due: June 23, 2014

- **Landscape Partnership grant**

For: municipal conservation commissions, water departments, non-profits, and state and federal agencies

To: acquire 500+ acres of land/CRs/APRs

Max award: \$1,500,000

Application due: July 31, 2014

Contact Information

Contact Melissa for PARC questions at (617) 626-1171 or
melissa.cryan@state.ma.us

Contact Celia for LAND & Small Communities questions at
(617) 626-1187 or celia.riechel@state.ma.us

Visit DCS online at www.mass.gov/eea/dcs-grants

**Remember – open question period ends on June 11, 2014, so
get your questions answered before then**